

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2904

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 4709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, LI, US

SUBJECT: LIBERIA REQUEST ADDITIONAL U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DELIVERED FOLLOWING "AIDE-
MEMOIRE" TO EMBASSY AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 14: QUOTE

" AIDE-MEMOIRE AUGUST 14, 1974

"THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA RECALLS THAT AT THE SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS HELD
IN APRIL 1974, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES MADE A
MOST POSITIVE PROPOSAL, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY WAS NOT ACTED
UPON BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THAT A SPECIAL OIL CRISIS
FUND BE CREATED FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SERIOUSLY
AFFECTED BY RAPIDLY INCREASING PRICES OF PETROLEUM AND
RELATED PRODUCTS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AT THAT
TIME EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE \$500 MILLION
TO SUCH A FUND.

"ALTHOUGH, AS A GENERAL MEASURE, THAT PROPOSAL DID NOT
TAKE EFFECT, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA EXPRESSES THE WISH
THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD GIVE CON-
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SIDERATION TO PROVIDING LIBERIA WITH INCREASED ASSISTANCE

ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

"IN THIS REGARD, TAKING DUE CONSIDERATION OF THE CLOSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA WISHES TO SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE APPROACHES:

"A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE DIRECT CONCESSIONARY LONG-TERM CAPITAL AID TO LIBERIA TO ASSIST THE LIBERIAN ECONOMY IN MEETING THE EFFECTS OF INCREASING COSTS FOR OIL AND OTHER COMMODITY IMPORTS, WHILE TRYING TO ASSURE CONTINUED PROGRESS IN INFRASTRUCTURAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

"B. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS TO AMERICAN COMPANIES FOR WHICH ON AND OFF-SHORE EXPLORATION OF OIL IN LIBERIA MAY, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, SHOW VERY PROMISING PROSPECTS. THIS COULD BE DONE BY SEEKING TO INTEREST OIL COMPANIES IN SUCH EXPLORATION AND BY GRANTING OF SPECIAL RELIEF OR GUARANTEES OR WRITE-OFFS FOR EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE MADE IN LIBERIA.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN EARLY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THIS GENERAL PROPOSITION, THE SPECIFIC APPROACHES REFERRED TO HEREIN, OR ANY OTHER MEANS BY WHICH THESE ENDS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED.
END QUOTE.

2. EMBASSY PLANS ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND INFORM MINISTRY IT HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. WILL MAKE NO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR FRAMING RESPONSE.

4. WE ASSUME FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS WILL RAISE SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AT 29TH UNGA.
BEAN

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